

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall 417, a Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2830. I would like the RECORD to show that I had intended to vote "no."

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5682) to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5682, the United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006.

In January of 2004, I had the opportunity to visit India with my wife and colleagues. During that trip I spoke with Defense Minister George Fernandes, and we discussed closer military cooperation between India and the United States. Even at that time, India favored closer military cooperation, but there were too many regulations, restrictions and laws on the books in a post 9-11 world. These laws inhibited closer military strategic cooperation. Fernandes explained that India and the United States hadn't been able to pursue a defense relationship because of outdated and insufficient export control policies. This, he said, had compelled India to develop a defense partnership with other nations. Until recently, approximately 70 percent of India's imported military equipment was from Russia.

One cannot help but ask why this is so? While we were having that conversation the United States military was conducting hip to hip joint military exercises with the Indian military in the Indian Ocean to fight against the global war on terror. If our men and women in uniform can conduct military exercises side by side with India's men and women against the enemies of democracy—we can develop a partnership between the Indian defense industry and the U.S. defense industry. We are partners. We share the same values. We share a partnership on the war on terror.

And in a short time that relationship has advanced. The two countries have been working closely on joint technology developments. And we need to expand that partnership, not only on a security basis, but also as we look at another key challenge we face: energy.

India, America's strongest ally in the region, is on the verge of energy insecurity: India does not have the domestic energy resources to sustain its rapidly growing economy, and consequently must meet its requirements through foreign energy resources. India's oil demand has doubled between 1990 and 2003 and will double again within the next 25 years.

As India consumes more energy from the world's finite energy supply, the cost for energy for ordinary Americans will increase significantly. Two-thirds of India's annual oil consumption is imported, and it is projected that India will import over 90 percent of its annual oil requirements within the next 15 years. Currently, nuclear energy only comprises 3 percent of India's energy consumption, and this number cannot increase substantially without civilian nuclear cooperation with the United States. That is why I think that along with civilian nuclear cooperation, a renewable energy partnership is equally as important. Many people don't realize that this deal will help keep energy costs down for ordinary Americans by reducing demand in the global oil market.

So I would like to spend a few minutes speaking on U.S.-India renewable energy cooperation. Something that is extremely important for both countries. After 6 years in Congress I have found that every single threat we face here at home is either derived from or based on one thing: our dependence on foreign oil. Renewable energy cooperation between the U.S. and India would help both countries tremendously.

When we dropped 2,500 pound bombs on Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, the order was given to 2 fighter planes. Only one could respond, because the other was in mid-air refueling. What better metaphor for the dangers of our current energy reliance!

Before leaving for India in 2004 I read the book "India" by Stanley Wolpert. In his book he wrote—"if India ever learns to harness its solar energy economically, the desert states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh could become valuable centers of power generation and transmission. Even as oil reserves have catapulted Arabia to affluence, solar power might launch central India into an age of rich growth and development, especially were it used to help tap mother Ganga's Perennial flow. India's major liability might then become her greatest asset."

We have some plans in place but we need to keep pushing to make sure that the two countries work together.

The Indian minister of non-conventional energy sources (MNES) recently met with experts at the National Renewable Energy Lab to discuss potential areas of collaboration. These areas include solar thermal power generation, low wind speed technology research & development, renewable energy resource assessment and the use of resource data in relevant analysis tools. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has proposed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DOE'S National Renewable Energy Laboratory to focus on hydrogen and biofuels research. This MOU will be the basis for future joint research. I am asking that Congress fully fund these programs and bring them to fruition, and work with India.

Mr. Chairman, we will need democratic partners in meeting threats and defending our national security. We will need democratic friends and allies with shared values and principles.

I saw that demonstrated last July not in India, but on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I was one of the Members who urged the congressional leadership to allow Prime Minister Singh to address a joint session of congress.

There it was for the whole world to see. the head of the largest democracy on earth (India) . . . speaking in the Congress of the oldest democracy on earth (America). That gave me great hope that we will triumph over our mutual challenges of terrorism and energy dependence.

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5682) to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India:

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5682, the "United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006."

As the world's largest democracy in a strategically important part of the world, India is a critical ally for the United States. Continuing the process of improving our relationship is thus very important. This agreement, H.R. 5682, will help us build a stronger partnership with India by allowing the United States to provide nuclear technology and fuel in order that India may meet its growing energy needs.

This agreement also is an improvement over the current situation with respect to India and the threat posed by the spread of nuclear weapons. As a nonsignatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), India is outside the international nuclear nonproliferation scheme. This agreement provides incentives to gain its cooperation because under H.R. 5682 the United States can only provide India nuclear assistance if the President certifies that India is taking certain specific steps to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons. These steps include the provision of a credible plan to separate its civilian and military nuclear programs, an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to apply IAEA safeguards to its civilian nuclear apparatus, and the taking of steps to prevent the export of sensitive nuclear materials or technology.

Furthermore, after the President makes the necessary certifications, Congress still has to approve any nuclear supply agreement with India before it can go forward. This provides an opportunity for Congress to make its own independent analysis of the extent to which India has followed through on its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

I do have some concerns about this legislation. It does not provide as many protections against the proliferation of nuclear weapons as I would have liked. And, I would have preferred that as a condition for aid India would at least have been required to agree to halt or limit its production of fissile material used for nuclear weapons. I will support the amendments offered by Representatives SHERMAN and BERMAN which would achieve this later goal.

Despite the fact that it is not perfect, H.R. 5682 is a net plus for the United States and